CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 - 12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) A reactor for gasifying granular fuels, the reactor comprising:

a casing provided in an upper portion with

a vertical annular wall and

a partition defining with the wall a generally closed annular chamber;

means including a reservoir holding the granular fuel and opening into the casing within the annular wall for forming in the casing below the partition a fixed bed of the granular fuel having an upper surface spaced below the partition;

means for introducing an oxygen-containing gasification medium into the bed below the surface thereof such that the gasification medium moves up through the fixed bed of granular fuel and creates an endothermic reaction in the fixed bed with partial oxidation of the bed and the creation of a product gas containing hydrogen and carbon oxides rising from the surface of bed, whereby the product gas entrains particles upward from the surface out of the fixed bed into a generally empty region below the partition, above the upper surface, and outside the annular wall;

at least one centrifugal separator in the casing and at least partially imbedded in the bed for separating particles from the product gas, the separator having an upper inlet opening in the

empty region above the fixed bed of granular fuel for taking in the particle-laden product gas coming from the fixed bed of granular fuel, an outlet for product gas projecting through the partition and opening into the annular chamber, and a lower solid discharge opening directly into the fixed bed below the surface thereof; and

means including a discharge duct connected to the annular chamber above the surface and via the chamber to the outlet of the separator for withdrawing the product gas from the casing.

14. (currently amended) The reactor for gasifying granular fuels defined in claim 13 wherein there are a plurality of the centrifugal separators in the casing and the discharge duct ~~is formed as an~~ extends horizontally from the annular chamber ~~disposed in an upper portion of the reactor above the bed surface~~.

15. (canceled)

16. (currently amended) The reactor for gasifying granular fuels defined in claim [[15]] 13 wherein the centrifugal separator is disposed outside the portion enclosed by the annular wall.

17. (previously presented) The reactor for gasifying granular fuels defined in claim 13 wherein the centrifugal separator is a cyclone.

18. (withdrawn) A method of gasifying granular fuels, the method comprising the steps of:

forming in a casing a fixed bed of the granular fuel having an upper surface;

positioning in the casing at least one centrifugal separator at least partially imbedded in the fixed bed and having an upper inlet opening in the casing directly above the fixed bed of granular fuel, a lower particle-discharge opening directly into the fixed bed below the surface thereof, and a gas outlet; and

introducing an oxygen-containing gasification medium into the bed below the surface thereof such that the gasification medium moves up through the fixed bed of granular fuel and creates an endothermic reaction in the fixed bed with partial oxidation of the bed and the creation of a product gas containing hydrogen and carbon oxides rising from the surface of bed and gas entraining particles upward from the surface out of the fixed bed; and

withdrawing gas from the separator gas outlet and thereby drawing the particle-carrying product gas into the separator inlet and centrifugally separating the particles from the product gas with the particles dropping through the particle discharge directly into the bed and the product gas being drawn out through the gas outlet.

19. (withdrawn) The gasifying method defined in claim 18, further comprising the step of:

subdividing a space in the casing above the upper surface of the bed into a central chamber and an annular chamber surrounding the central chamber;

the bed being formed by pouring the granular fuel into the casing through the central chamber, there being a plurality of the separators with their gas outlets all opening into the annular chamber, the gas being withdrawn from the separator gas outlets via the annular chamber.